

THE CLAIMED INVENTION: ¹⁵

1. Method of providing distinctive protective headgear, comprising the steps of
providing a sheet of durable plastic composition with a visible distinctive pattern at one of its faces,
forming the sheet into generally hemispherical headgear shape,
covering the patterned face of the sheet with plastic composition solidifiable into a durable layer,
the outward facing ^{pattern-overlying portion thereof} composition being translucent, ^{c,}
whereupon the pattern is visible to an outside observer.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet composition is translucent, and including the step of so forming the sheet in a substantially hemispherical female form, with the patterned face facing away from the form.
3. Method according to claim 2, wherein the solidifiable plastic composition is opaque and including the step of solidifying it into a durable opaque layer against the patterned face.
4. Method according to claim 1, including the step of so forming the sheet on a substantially hemispherical male form, with the patterned face of the sheet facing away from the form.
5. Method according to claim 4, wherein the solidifiable plastic composition is translucent, and including the step of covering the patterned face of the formed sheet with a layer thereof and solidifying it into a durable translucent layer against the patterned face.

6. Method according to claim 1, including a pretreatment step of silk-screening the pattern onto one face of the sheet.

7. Method according to claim 1, including a pretreatment step of impregnating the patterned face of the sheet with the pattern, in at least a substantial part of the patterned face.

8. Method according to claim 1, including a step of covering the patterned face intermediately with a distinctive visible all-over pattern.

9. Headgear produced by the method of claim 1, including a suspension harness spaced from the headgear interior surface.

10. Headgear produced by the method of claim 1, including a solid foam liner adherent to the headgear interior surface.

11. Composite protective headgear, comprising ^{essentially} a translucent exterior abrasion-resistant solid plastic layer, an ^{opaque interior} solid plastic layer, and ^{sandwiched therebetween} an intermediate ~~distinctive~~ patterning visible to an onlooker viewing it from the exterior.

12. Protective headgear according to claim 11, formed from a plurality of plastic compositions, one of which carries the ~~distinctive pattern~~ ^{patterning} in a distorted configuration adapted to become substantially undistorted when formed into generally hemispherical protective headgear shape.

13. Protective headgear according to claim 12, wherein the distinctive pattern is impregnated into the surface of the sheet.

14. Protective headgear according to claim 12, wherein an all-over pattern accompanies another pattern symbolizing the wearer of the headgear individually or as a member of a group.

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15. Protective headgear of generally hemispherical shape and composite laminar structure, comprising
an outer layer of durable translucent thermoplastic material,
an inner layer of durable opaque thermoplastic material,
an intervening patterning layer carried by one of those layers,
the respective layers being inseparable from one another,
the distinctive design being visible to an external observer viewing it through the translucent outer layer against the opaque inner layer.

16. Headgear according to claim 15, wherein the laminar distinctive design is impregnated into one of the layers, and comprising a material selected from the class consisting of polyalkylenes, polycarbonates, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrenes, and acrylic polyvinyl chlorides.

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17. Headgear according to claim 15, including spacing means therein adapted to space ^{the} ~~its~~ concave ^{of the headgear} ~~inner~~ surface away from the head of a person wearing the headgear. 3

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18. Headgear according to claim 15, wherein the spacing means includes suspension material detachably attached to the headgear.

19. Headgear according to claim 15, wherein the spacing means includes padding material non-detachably attached to the headgear.

20. Distinctive protective headgear comprising a sheet of durable plastic material carrying a distinctive pattern in intentionally distorted form adapted to become undistorted by being formed into substantially hemispherical headgear shape.

21. Headgear according to claim 20, having had the sheet formed into substantially headgear shape, with the resulting pattern thereby converted from distorted to undistorted.

22. Headgear according to claim 21, having also a layer of durable plastic material covering the patterned sheet, with the the resulting undistorted pattern therebetween and thus protected by both the sheet and the covering layer.

23. Headgear according to claim 22, wherein the covering layer of durable plastic material was added by injection molding.

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